

[COUPLING DEVICE FOR A DETACHABLE SHOE UPPER ON A SHOE]

Abstract

A slipper or sandal-type footwear having two or more coupling devices for detaching the upper shoe part from the plastic sole. The coupling devices are distributed around the edges of the shoe upper and have teeth-like prongs which mesh with resilient tongues positioned within sockets that are embedded in the sole. Buttons are provided on the sidewalls of the sole for releasing the prongs from the sockets when it is desired to exchange the shoe uppers on the sole. Methods of manufacture are provided for molding the sole and preventing leakage of the injected plastic into the sockets that would interfere with the operation of the coupling device. The socket can be manufactured with a frangible membrane that seals off the button orifice, or with a cap that fit around and encloses the entire socket.